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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: JOHN F. T. CONROY, M.E. POWER, AND P. M. NORRIS

Serial No.: 09/785,188

Art Unit: 1651

Filed: February 20, 2001

Examiner: David M. Naff

Title: SOL-GEL BIOMATERIAL IMMOBILIZATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed October 15, 2002, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 30 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 15, 17, 26, 28, 29, and 31-36 to read as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) A sol, comprising:

P moles of a hydroxy metallate;

W moles of water;

a sufficient amount of a dispersant to cause macropores in a gel formed by said sol; and
a biological material,

wherein a ratio of W:P is greater than 25:1.

17. (Twice Amended) The sol according to claim 15, wherein:

said hydroxy metallate is formed by hydrolysis of a sol-gel precursor.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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